

## Daily News Bulletin

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ROMANIAN MINISTER TAKES ISSUE WITH JEWS OVER CRITICISM OF NEW ANTI-RACIAL DECREE

BUCHAREST, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Minister of Justice Lucretiu Patrascanu today struck back at Dr. William Filderman, Rumanian Jewish leader, over the latter's criticism of the new decree abolishing anti-Jewish legislation in Rumania. In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the minister said:

"The new Rumania intends to fight racialism. The decree just issued invalidates all the racial laws and establishes equal rights for Jews. The Jews should understand that we are not only defending their interests, but also attempting to establish a basis for mutual understanding between all Rumanian citizens without regard to ethnic origin."

Pointing out that the section of the new decree most objected to by Dr. Filderman deals with certain categories of Rumanians who moved into Jewish homes when the Jews were ejected from their apartments, the minister continued. "It must be borne in mind that we want to establish justice based not upon revenge. We refuse to imitate the fascists in using their methods. The state cannot take measures against its own interests. Had the decree been issued in September, the clearing out of all Rumanian tenants from Jewish houses would have then perhaps been feasible, but not today."

Minister Patrascanu also emphasized that indemnities to Jews who were ousted from employment under the anti-Jewish laws cannot be paid at present in view of the fact that "a difficult war must be carried on against Hitlerism and no country can at present afford to indulge in measures which might weaken its war effort."

HUNGARIANS IN MAD SCRAMBLE FOR JEWISH GOODS AS FALL OF BUDAPEST IS IMMINENT

ZURICH, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- With Budapest threatened with complete encirclement, Jewish-owned stores which were taken over by the government are being besieged by crowds in a mad scramble for confiscated Jewish goods, it is revealed in Hungarian newspapers reaching here today.

The papers report that Hungarians are rushing to these stores and threaten the government salesmen there, some at the point of pistols, in an attempt to secure shoes, clothing and other articles which are now considered government property. At the same time the papers carry announcements inviting the population to buy stocks from Jewish firms which have passed into the hands of the government under the anti-Jewish legislation.

Notwithstanding the critical situation in which Budapest now finds itself, the pro-Nazi Szalasi government has not relaxed in its stepped-up anti-Jewish propaganda. The official gazette of last Saturday carries an order severely restricting the publication of newspapers and magazines in Budapest, but the anti-Semitic

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newspaper "Harc" which is similar to the notorious publication "Der Stuermer" in Germany, is not listed among the publications which are to be discontinued as result of the paper shortage.

The imminent fall of Budapest into the hands of the Russian Army does not prevent the Budapest papers from carrying a decree issued last week by the Szalasi government defining the territorial limits of the Jewish ghetto in the Hungarian capital. The decree reads:

"The government has decreed that Budapest yellow-starred Jews must move to territory bordered by Dohany, Nagyatadi, Szabo, Istvan Kiraly, Osanyi, Sebestyen Rumbach, Imre Madach and King Karoly Streets and Imre Madach Square. That area (the ghetto) must be separated from the area inhabited by non-Jews. Houses facing the above streets do not belong to the ghetto, which must not be inhabited by non-Jews."

Non-Jews must not practice their profession in the ghetto, said the decree and "likewise, authorities and public institutions must not locate there." The newspapers quoted the decree as stating that "non-Jews leaving the ghetto will get certificates authorizing them to receive dwellings from the government housing commission," and "dwellings that become vacant when Jews have moved must be let to the non-Jewish certificate holder who demands the dwelling first."

"The government realizes the extraordinary difficulties that non-Jews will have to face when leaving the ghetto, but that sacrifice is necessary for victory's sake," said the decree.

#### VICHY COMMISSARIAT FOR JEWS, THOUGH NOT FUNCTIONING, STILL GETS GOVERNMENT FUNDS

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Though the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs which was established by the Vichy regime ceased all activity under the present regime, and did not operate for at least four of the twelve months of the year, its fifty-million franc budget for 1944, allocated by the Vichy government, was reduced by only 3,300,000 francs in the revision of the national budget by the Provisional Government, a study of the revision ordinance disclosed today.

The revised budget contains no reduction in the allocation for salaries and wages which totalled in excess of 36,000,000 francs. The salary items of 180,000 and 150,000 francs respectively of the Commissioner General and the Secretary General remain unchanged although most of the high officials of the commissariat are either under arrest or awaiting indictment. Informed quarters have no knowledge of any decree or action removing high officials of the Commissariat from government service and payroll.

The only items deleted from the original Vichy budget by the new financial ordinance were 2,500,000 francs of the original 3,600,000 franc appropriation for propaganda; 600,000 of the 2,200,000 francs allowed for travel expenses, and 200 francs of the 600,000 earmarked for family subsidies for employees of the commissariat.

Several members of the Consultative Assembly have promised to intervene to bring about the dissolution of two organizations founded to prevent the return to Jews in France of property confiscated from them under the Vichy regime, Bernard Lecache, president of the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism, announced today.

M. Lecache said that they had interviewed leaders of several groups in the Consultative Assembly and had described to them the work and purposes of these organizations and the urgency of a definite solution of the problems created by the Vichy racial policy.

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POLICE AND MILITARY CONDUCT HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR TERRORISTS IN HAIFA SUBURB

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The largest combined military and police action against terrorist groups in Palestine took place today at Bat Yam, a suburb of Haifa, where mobile units cordoned off the streets for four hours and conducted a house-to-house search.

All men in the settlement, numbering several hundred, were taken for interrogation to police centers. Twenty-five were detained for further questioning.

A police raid was also made today on the premises of the General Zionist Club in Jerusalem. Five persons were arrested as terrorist suspects.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN FRANCE WILL GET 50 TORAHS FROM AMERICA; TEN FROM NAVY CHAPLAINS

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Fifty Scrolls of the Torah will be sent to the Jews in France as result of pledges made at a dinner given last Sunday at the Plaza Hotel marking the dedication of the first Sepher Torah to be destined from America for the Jewish community in Paris.

The first Torah - a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jules Bronert who resided in Paris - formally presented at the dinner, inspired spontaneous subscriptions for more Torahs among the several hundred guests present, the majority of whom are outstanding members of the French-Jewish community in New York. One donor, who preferred to remain anonymous, subscribed for ten Scrolls. Lt. Commander Joshua L. Goldberg, chaplain, USNR, U. S. Navy, offered ten Torahs on behalf of the chaplain corps of the U. S. Navy. Thirty more were subscribed for by individual guests.

Leon Meiss, president of Representative Council of Jews in France, who is now on a visit in this country, addressing the gathering, estimated that a minimum of 300 Torahs are needed immediately for the initial restoration of Jewish religious life in France. Many of the synagogues are in ruins, the Germans defiled the sacred books and desecrated Jewish houses of worship in various French cities, he declared.

Baron Edouard de Rothschild, president of the Jewish Consistory of France who presided at the dinner, called for a revival of Judaism. Other speakers included Edgar J. Nathan, Borough President of Manhattan; Rabbi Simon Langer; Rabbi Kaplan, Acting Chief Rabbi of France; Lt. Commander Joshua L. Goldberg, Chaplain Corps, USN; and Joseph Fisher, Secretary General of the Representative Council of Jews in France.

SENATE HEARS CRITICISM OF STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON AID TO JEWS IN EUROPE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Senator William Langer of North Dakota today criticized State Department officials on the Senate floor for obstructing efforts to aid Jewish refugees in Europe. He attacked James C. Dunn, nominated for one of the Assistant Secretaryships, for his activities in this regard.

Senator Robert Reynolds, of North Carolina, in his last day in the Senate, made his usual anti-immigration speech. Reynolds did not run for re-election.

LATIN AMERICAN LABOR CONVENTION SUPPORTS ZIONIST DEMANDS FOR A JEWISH STATE

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- A resolution condemning racial discrimination was adopted here today at the convention of the Latin-American Confederation of Labor.

The convention also adopted a resolution supporting the Zionist demand for the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine.

ARTHUR GREENLEIGH ARRIVES IN PARIS TO DIRECT J.D.C. RELIEF WORK IN FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Arthur Greenleigh, representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Italy, arrived here today from Rome to direct the J.D.C. relief activities in France. He was replaced in Rome by Reuben Resnik, former J.D.C. representative in Turkey.

(The Joint Distribution Committee office in New York today announced that Israel G. Jacobson, social work executive of Rochester, N. Y., has left the United States for Italy "to assist in the selection and preparation of refugees for emigration to Palestine and other countries, in the administration of emergency relief, and in the restoration of schools, hospitals, orphanages, synagogues and other institutions.)

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF PROMINENT JEWISH POET OBSERVED IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Hundreds of Jews were turned away last night from the crowded premises of the Moscow Jewish Theatre where a memorial meeting was held marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Osher Schwartzman, noted Jewish poet, who was only 29 years old when killed in action on Dec. 18, 1919, during the civil war in Russia.

Principal speaker at the meeting was Adel Schwartzman, wife of the late hero, who spoke of the life and work of her husband and of his devotion to the Revolution. She revealed also that her only son, David Schwartzman, is today a senior lieutenant in the Red Army, having distinguished himself at Stalingrad and was three times decorated for bravery. He is now fighting in the Danube theatre of the war.

A large number of high military officials, including a number of Jewish generals, were among the audience. The speakers included prominent Jewish writers and poets.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CONFERS "MASTER OF AGRICULTURE" DEGREES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Twenty "Master of Agriculture" degrees, the first ever issued by the Hebrew University School of Agriculture, were granted today during commencement exercises for 72 students. Twenty-four received Master of Arts degrees, 28 Master of Science, and 13 Doctor of Philosophy.

MARC CHAGALL EXHIBITION OPENED IN PARIS; FIRST SINCE THE OCCUPATION OF FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- For the first time since 1948, an exhibition of paintings by Marc Chagall, noted Jewish painter who is now in the United States, opened here at the Vendôme Gallery.

BRODETSKY FELLOWSHIP ESTABLISHED AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY; MAY BE CONVERTED INTO CHAIR

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- A research fellowship in practical mathematics has been established at the Hebrew University in honor of Prof. Selig Brodetsky, chairman of the Board of Jewish Deputies of England. The fellowship, after two years, may be converted into a permanent chair of practical mathematics bearing the name of Prof. Brodetsky.

LEON LEVITE, PRESIDENT OF ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF POLAND, DIES IN PALESTINE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Leon Levite, former president of the Zionist Organization in Poland, died here at the age of 67. He was the head of the Palestine Office in Warsaw till the outbreak of the war and also the founder and president of the Polish-Palestine Bank in Warsaw. He came to Palestine in 1939 and settled in Tel Aviv.